

Serial No. 10/593,645

REMARKS

The claims are amended to recite that the Applicants' pressing is longitudinal, or, axial, relative to the axes of their several cylindrical parts. (In contrast, reference Irie's pressing is radial, at right angles to the pressing of the Applicants; this discussed below.) The longitudinal or axial pressing is implied by the dependent claims such as 4 and 5, and the word "axial" is already implied by "cylindrical" in claim 1; literal support is in the summary, which repeatedly refers to "the center of axis of the catalyst" (*axial* is, of course, just the adjectival form of *axis*).

The Applicants measure this axial insertion force. The amendment reciting "press-fitting the catalyst and the mat into the outer cylindrical housing along a longitudinal direction of the outer cylindrical housing" is clearly illustrated in Figs. 3-4 (the arrow in Fig. 3 approximates the cylindrical axis) and in the description of those figures, and the feature of "detecting a longitudinal pressing force" is clearly shown in Fig. 5 (the Examiner is invited to note the load cell B in Fig. 5(b)), and is also supported in the specification, such as by "the catalyst 11 is press-fitted inside the outer cylindrical housing 13" and "the pressing force upon press-fitting the catalyst 11 by the pressing member A can be detected during this press-fitting operation."

In the final swaging step of claim 1, the *radial diameter* reduction is a function of the *axial resistance* previously measured. The Examiner is invited to note the specification paragraph reading, "FIG. 6 explains the swaging process to be executed after the press-fitting

Serial No. 10/593,645

process diameter reduction according to the swaging device 20 is made based on the detection result of the pressing force (counterforce) that has been detected at the press-fitting process.”

The reduced-diameter portion, already implied by the reducing step, is shown in Fig. 4(a).

New claims 18 and 19 are merely explicatory or definitional. They are patentable for the reasons below. The new claims are patentable for the reasons below.

In response to the outstanding Office Action:

(1) The Examiner maintains the restriction, the Applicants’ traversal is respectfully maintained.

(2) The title was objected to, and is amended to overcome the objection.

(3-4) Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Irie et al., US 6,769,281. The Examiner asserts that claim 1 is anticipated by the first 15 drawing figures and one paragraph in column 12 which describes Fig. 3.

Serial No. 10/593,645

Irie. Fig. 3 shows a device with a load cell LC mounted on the tip of an hydraulic pusher member PM. The load cell LC directly measures the force exerted on the shock absorbent mat 3 by the pusher member PM. The pressure in the hydraulic cylinder is directly proportional to the force exerted by the pusher member PM, which is proportional to the pressure on the mat 3. Irie writes (col. 12, line 46), "As the contacting area of the pushing member (PM) is known, the reaction force ... is detected by the load cell (LC) to provide the pressure applied to the catalyst substrate 2, which is input to the controller (CT). In the controller (CT), the signal detected by the load cell (LC) is converted into the pressure to be memorized into the memory, and compared with the predetermined target pressure (Pt) which was input into the controller (CT) in advance". Irie does not carefully define the "pressure", but it is clear that the pressure is *radial* (i.e., perpendicular to the axis Z in Fig. 3).

Irie does not disclose "an outer cylindrical housing which is swaged to support therein the housing" as recited in claim 1, because Irie's cylindrical housing fits loosely.

Dependent Claims. The rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. The Examiner has not presented any details in his rejection, instead merely asserted that the features are disclosed in the drawing. Citations are requested.

Advantages. The Applicants provide rapid diameter reduction that, in comparison to the prior art, involves fewer processes and obviates the time-consuming measurement operation.

Serial No. 10/593,645

Furthermore, the diameter reduction is obtained in consideration of variation of individual catalysts and mats, so the clearance can be set regardless of variation. Therefore, the Applicants avoid rattling of the catalyst in the outer housing on the one hand, and excessive tightness on the other hand, both of which result from improper clearances.

(5) The Applicants respectfully submit that no list of reference numbers is necessary in this application.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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